

## Minutes of Mississippi Board of Education Meeting

April 18, 2024

The members of the Mississippi Board of Education met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-5 for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The public accessed this meeting via livestream or in-person at the Central High School Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 359 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Board members physically present included: Mr. Glen V. East, Dr. Wendi Barrett, Mr. Bill Jacobs, Mr. Matt Mayo, Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Mr. Matt Miller, Mr. Mike Pruitt, and Ms. Mary Werner. Student Representatives present: Mr. Charlie Frugé and Ms. Kate Riddle. Dr. Raymond C. Morgigno, Interim State Superintendent, was also present.

- I. Mr. Glen V. East called the Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., after determining that a quorum of the Board existed for the purpose of conducting a meeting.
- II. Ms. Mary Werner led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Matt Miller gave the Invocation.
- III. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 7, 2024 Board meeting.
- IV. On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Wendi Barrett, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent agenda as presented.

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

- V. Recognition Ceremony

### **2024 Community Engagement Council of Promise Award**

Simpson County School District

### **2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools**

Caledonia High School

Lowndes County School District

Laurel Magnet School of the Arts

Laurel School District

Lewisburg Elementary School

DeSoto County School District

VI. Report of State Superintendent of Education

- Dr. Morgigno congratulated Mr. Charlie Frugé for being named one of Mississippi's seven U.S. Presidential Scholar semifinalists. Dr. Morgigno stated the finalists will be announced in May.
- Dr. Morgigno welcomed new Board members Mr. Matt Mayo and Ms. Billye Jean Stroud with Senate confirmations expected soon.
- Dr. Morgigno stated Senate confirmations were confirmed for Dr. Lance Evans, Mr. Glen East, and Mr. Mike Pruitt. Dr. Morgigno stated Dr. Evans will come on board July 1, 2024.
- Dr. Morgigno stated the Legislative session is still going on and Ms. Holly Spivey is doing a tremendous job in frequent meetings at the Capitol and with MDE staff.
- Dr. Morgigno stated MDE talked with the U.S. Department of Education and MDE will be one of three states hosting a regional convening on teaching profession and this will be held June 20-21, 2024 in Jackson. Dr. Morgigno stated that Dr. Courtney Van Cleve, Dr. Cory Murphy, Dr. Debra Burson, and their team will lead this meeting for MDE.
- Dr. Morgigno stated MDE had their financial audit by the Auditor's Office and for the first time in five years MDE had absolutely zero findings, so we really appreciate the work of our Finance Department.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited Holmes County Consolidated School District several weeks ago. Dr. Morgigno stated they recently had their audit and they had only two minor findings. Dr. Morgigno stated they have been a "C" for two years.
- Dr. Morgigno stated the final Student Advisory Council meeting of the year was held yesterday with Mr. Charlie Frugé and Ms. Kate Riddle facilitating the meeting. Dr. Morgigno stated the students had a research project that was assigned at the first meeting and the students presented their problems and the solutions. Dr. Morgigno stated the students produced some good ideas and they took time to do surveys and interviews. Dr. Morgigno stated they did a fantastic job, and he will share some of their information with teachers at an upcoming meeting.
- Dr. Morgigno stated the Superintendents Advisory Council was held recently and in the next few weeks MDE will hold the Regional Superintendents meetings around the state to give updates.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he had the privilege to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point Annual Educator Workshop. Dr. Morgigno stated it was a great opportunity to hear about their admission projects so it can be shared with our districts to make sure our students in Mississippi know the opportunities with the different service academies.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he and MDE staff attended the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Legislative Conference, and we were able to meet with our congressional delegation. Dr. Morgigno stated they met with Representative Michael Guest, Representative Trent Kelly, and a member

of Senator Roger Wicker's staff. Dr. Morgigno stated it was great to hear things on the national side.

- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited with the MASS President and some superintendents during this legislative session.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he participated on a panel at the Mississippi State University Symposium recently on Improving Opportunities and Quality of Life for People with Disabilities through Collaboration, Research, and Outreach.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he spoke at the Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) Best Practices Symposium to about 300 teachers on a Saturday.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he spoke at the Annual Head Start Transition meeting in Holly Springs, hosted by the Institute of Community Services (ICS), Inc. Project Head Start. Dr. Morgigno stated the increased collaboration between our Head Starts and the school districts is phenomenal.
- Dr. Morgigno stated he visited Nichols Middle School in Canton last week. Dr. Morgigno stated he and Mr. Brian McGairty visited the Hayes Cooper Elementary School in Cleveland last week where they had an explosion and thankfully no students were injured. Dr. Morgigno stated that Delta State University has opened their campus for Hayes Cooper to have school. Dr. Morgigno stated it was great to see how everyone pulled together.

VII. Mr. Glen V. East, Chair of the State Board, gave the following report:

- Mr. East stated that Mr Charlie Frugé will be graduating and heading to Harvard. Mr. East read a Resolution for Mr. Charlie Frugé (copy attached).

VIII. Reports from Student Representatives

Ms. Kate Riddle thanked Mr. Charlie Frugé for mentoring her when she came to the Board. Ms. Riddle stated that Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) is important in Mississippi. Ms. Riddle stated that science and math are in every corner of our lives, and the way that they work, and function is fascinating. Ms. Riddle stated that every subject in STEM is important to ensuring that every student in Mississippi is well-rounded. STEM is vital to the success of every student in Mississippi, and its presence in the classroom should be prioritized and encouraged.

Mr. Charlie Frugé stated this is his final presentation before the Board. Mr. Frugé thanked the Board for having and keeping the student position because he feels the student perspective is a valuable thing on the Board. He stated that many states do not have student representatives. Mr. Frugé thanked all MDE staff who have helped him during his two years on the Board. Mr. Frugé stated that now he understands the depth and breadth of education and that MDE staff care about our state's progress. He stated that collaboration is key in education. Mr.

Frugé stated that with the leadership at MDE our kids will grow, and he cannot wait to return home and see the progress.

IX. Reports on State Board of Education Subcommittee meetings

Dr. Wendi Barrett, Chair, Academic Achievement PreK-12/Early Childhood Subcommittee, met yesterday via Teams. Dr. Barrett stated that they discussed some additional PreK classrooms that are going to be added through the SIP Cohorts, revisions and changes to the Kindergarten Guidelines, and a new JROTC diploma endorsement option.

Mr. Bill Jacobs, Chair, Internal Accountability Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee met this morning, and they approved the program evaluation plan for 2024-2025 which they will also update if needed with additional evaluation projects during the year. Mr. Jacobs stated they approved 10 junior student representative semifinalists that were recommended by the Ad-Hoc Steering Committee. Mr. Jacobs thanked the members of the committee for their work. Mr. Jacobs stated the committee reviewed and rated the 33 applications received and selected 10 semifinalists. The 10 semifinalists are: Zenaida Caquias, Gulfport School District, Gulfport High School; Noah Clapper, Madison County School District, Madison Central High School; Annsley Coleman, New Albany School District, New Albany High School; Jack Durr, Pearl Public School District, Pearl High School; Jaiden Hardy, Brookhaven School District, Brookhaven High School; Samuel Haydel, Petal School District, Petal High School; Crosby Parker, Gulfport School District, Gulfport High School; Kennedy Powell, Brookhaven School District, Brookhaven High School; Louis Schramm, Lamar County School District, Oak Grove High School; and Shruti Singh, Clinton Public School District, Clinton High School. Mr. Jacobs stated these students will be interviewed by the Internal Accountability Subcommittee on May 1 and 2 and following the interviews the subcommittee will select the top four highest scoring finalists which the Board will interview on June 19, 2024. Mr Jacobs stated the Board will select a junior student representative and an alternate after the interviews and the student representative will begin their term on July 1, 2024 and end on April 30, 2026.

Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, Chair, School Performance and Accountability Subcommittee, stated there was no report.

X. Discussion and/or Approval of Board Items

01. Action: Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2023*, specifically the business rules of the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System, Section 4, *Participation Rates*, Section 6, *Growth*, Section 9, *Acceleration*, Section 10, *Banking Scores: End-of-course*,

*subject area assessments taken before 10th grade, Section 11, Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI), Section 12, Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI), Section 13, Additional Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (ATSI) and Section 22, Schools without Tested Subjects or Grades [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)*

On a motion by Dr. Wendi Barrett, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously approved item 01. (copy attached).

02. Action: Approval of the MDE Contracts [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 02.A. Action: Renew contract with Ajax Industrial Cleaning, LLC for Fiscal Year 2025 to provide janitorial services for the Administration Building located at the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB) [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
  - 02.B. Action: Renew contract with Research and Curriculum Unit, Mississippi State University for Fiscal Year 2025 for the operation of the Mississippi Career and Planning and Assessment System, Third Edition (MS-CPAS3) [Goals 1 and 2– MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)
  - 02.C. Action: Modify contract with North Mississippi Education Consortium to increase the amount of the contract for FY25 to facilitate planned activities for Mississippi Department of Education for 2022-2025 [Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Paula Vanderford)
  - 02.D. Action: Renew contract with MS Home Corporation for Fiscal Year 2025 for the MS Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Program [Goal 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)
  - 02.E. Action: Approve employment agreement for Dr. Washington Cole, IV to continue to serve as Interim Superintendent for the Noxubee County School District [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Erin Meyer)
  - 02.F. Action: Approve employment agreement for Dr. Jennifer Wilson to continue to serve as Interim Superintendent for the Holmes County Consolidated School District [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Erin Meyer)

- 02.G. Action: Approve employment agreement for Dr. Earl Watkins to continue to serve as Superintendent for the Achievement School District [Goals 1, 2, 4, and 6 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Erin Meyer)

On a motion by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items 02.A., 02.B., 02.C., 02.D., 02.E., 02.F., and 02.G. (copy attached).

03. Action: Approval of the MDE grant awards [Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Felicia Gavin)

03.A. Action: Award Educator-in-Residence (EIR) Grants to school districts for literacy coaching supports [Goals 1, 2, and 4 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

03.B. Action: Modify grants for the State Invested Pre-Kindergarten (SIP) Program Cohort I to support pre-kindergarten with increased funding to serve additional children [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

03.C. Action: Modify grants for the State Invested Pre-Kindergarten (SIP) Program Cohort II to support pre-kindergarten with increased funding to serve additional children [Goal 3 – MBE Strategic Plan] (Donna Boone)

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee, the Board unanimously approved items 03.A., 03.B., and 03.C. (copy attached).

04. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi School of the Arts (Donna Boone)
- B. Approval of monthly expenditures for the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (Donna Boone)
- C. Approval of certified personnel for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (Donna Boone)
- D. Approval of the school calendars for the Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science for 2024-2025 school year (Donna Boone)

- E. Approval of contract with Gater Consultants, LLC to provide unarmed security services on the campus of the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for the 2024-2025 fiscal school year (Donna Boone)
  
- F. Approval of methodology to award grant dollars to non-profit entities for professional development in the areas of workforce development and economics education (Donna Boone)
  
- G. Approval to revise selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
  - 01. Agriculture Power and Machinery
  - 02. Construction Core
  - 03. Cosmetology
  - 04. Electrical
  - 05. Healthcare and Clinical Services
  - 06. Health Science Core
  - 07. Heating, Ventilation, Air, Cooling, and Refrigeration (HVACR)
  - 08. Instrumentation
  - 09. Metal Fabrication
  - 10. Precision Machining
  - 11. Sports Medicine and Therapeutic Services
  
- H. Approval to establish selected Mississippi Secondary Curriculum Frameworks in Career and Technical Education (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)
  - 1. Emergency Medical Services
  - 2. Energy Technology II
  - 3. Multimedia Core
  - 4. Multimedia—Advanced Broadcast and Production
  - 5. Multimedia—Broadcast Foundations
  - 6. Multimedia—Digital Design
  - 7. Multimedia—Digital Video Production
  - 8. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
  
- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-3: Chapter 28, Rule 28.5 – Credit Recovery Policy (Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process without public comments) (Donna Boone)

- J. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2023*, Appendices A-6 – A-12, B-2, G, glossary, and to establish Appendix A-13 and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2023*, Appendices A-6 – A-12, B-2, G, glossary, and establish Appendix A-13  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with one public comment) (Donna Boone)
- K. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise the *Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines* (Donna Boone)
- L. Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To revise *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2023*, Appendix F, Requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System - Standard 16 (Paula Vanderford)
- M. Approval to establish iteach Mississippi as an approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP) to offer a nontraditional pathway to teacher licensure and to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-4: Part 4: Licensure Guidelines K-12, to include requirements for teacher licensure specific to prospective iteach Mississippi program completers  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with public comments) (Paula Vanderford)
- N. Approval of methodology to award multi-year grants from the Office of Healthy Schools and Child Nutrition (Paula Vanderford)
- O. Information: 2023 Annual Educator Preparation Provider Teacher Preparation Performance Report in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-101-29 (Paula Vanderford)

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved items A., B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., M., N., and O. (copy attached).

XI. Consideration of Executive Session

Mr. Matt Miller moved that the Board consider making a closed determination of the need to go into Executive Session. Dr. Wendi Barrett seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Glen V. East asked for Dr. Marla Davis, Dr. Paula Vanderford, Dr. Jackie Sampsell, and Mr. Alan Burrow, and legal counsel to remain in the room.



Mr. Matt Miller, then moved that the Board go into Executive Session in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(a) and (k) for discussion of discrete personnel matters and Miss. Code Ann. § 25-41-7 (4)(b) for strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order. Mr. Mike Pruitt seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Jennifer Nichols informed the public of the Board's vote to go into Executive Session for the above stated reasons.

### **Minutes of the Executive Session**

During the Executive Session, the Board discussed discrete personnel matters and strategy sessions or negotiations with respect to prospective litigation, ongoing litigation, or issuance of an appealable order.

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Ms. Mary Werner, the Board unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session.

The public came back into the Board meeting and Mr. East stated that the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Ginger Tedder as the Executive Director of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science.

01. On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Mike Pruitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Ginger Tedder as the Executive Director of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science at an annual salary of \$115,000.00.

## **XII. State Board of Education**

1. Mr. Matt Miller, as a matter of personal privilege, recognized Ms. Jessica McNeel as being named the 2024 Mississippi Parent of the Year. Mr. Miller stated she is a friend and fellow lawyer, and she has two students in the Pascagoula-Gautier School District.
2. Mr. Mike Pruitt requested approval to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute on July 9-10, 2024 in Washington, DC.

Mr. Matt Mayo requested approval to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute on July 9-10, 2024 in Washington, DC.

On a motion by Ms. Mary Werner, seconded by Mr. Matt Miller, the Board voted 5 to 0 for Mr. Mike Pruitt and Mr. Matt Mayo (contingent upon Senate confirmation) to attend the NASBE meeting on July 9-10, 2024 in Washington, DC.

Members voting <u>aye</u> :	Dr. Wendi Barrett Mr. Bill Jacobs Dr. Ronnie L. McGehee Mr. Matt Miller Ms. Mary Werner
Member voting <u>nay</u> :	None
Members abstain:	Mr. Mike Pruitt Mr. Matt Mayo
Member absent:	None

XIII. Other Business

Mr. Glen V. East stated the May Board meeting will be held on May 16, 2024, in Jackson, MS at the Central High School Building in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom starting at 10:00 a.m.

XIV. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Matt Miller, seconded by Mr. Bill Jacobs, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Approved:

  
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Glen V. East, Board Chair  
Mississippi Board of Education

  
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Raymond C. Morgigno  
Interim Executive Secretary  
Mississippi Board of Education